

## INSTREAM BIOLOGICAL AND WATER QUALITY ASSESSMENT

RFQ #2016-008

Date Issued: March 24, 2016

### ADDENDUM NO. 1

This addendum will only be available for viewing on the City of Cincinnati website at <https://data.cincinnati-oh.gov/Fiscal-Sustainability-Strategic-Investment/Procurement-Opportunities-and-Contract-Awards/pid3-z56k>.

The attention of all Offerors is directed to the following additions and/or deletions to the Request for Qualifications (RFQ).

► ADDED ITEMS ◀ ARE UNDERLINED AND DELETED ITEMS ARE STRUCK THROUGH

The RFQ and Qualifications Questionnaire for the above referenced project are amended and revised as follows:

#### **RFQ 2016-008**

- COVER PAGE AND SECTION 1.6

The SUBMITTAL DEADLINE/TIME has been extended until March 30, 2016, 1:30 p.m. Cincinnati, Ohio time.

The RFQ for the above referenced project is amended and revised as follows:

- RFQ Questions and Answers

*Question 1: Considering the 2011 Bioassessment Plan objectives, will the Project Study Plan (PSP) require conformance with the Ohio Credible Data regulations (OAC 3745-4) and require Ohio EPA approval under those rules and at Level 3 specifications as was done for each of the 2011-14 bioassessments?*

**Answer 1. Due to the timing of the procurement process, for 2016, MSDGC will prepare and submit the necessary PSP for Ohio EPA approval utilizing the MSDGC Laboratory and its NELAP certification of accreditation as well as the key personnel of the selected firm.**

*Question 2: In addition, will MSDGC be seeking a Level 3 PSP for chemical water quality data in 2016?*

**Answer 2. Yes, chemical water sampling will occur under the supervision of a Level 3 qualified field crew leader.**

*Question 3: For the Qualifications of Key Personnel, and in light of the comments made above, will a firm that offers Level 3 QDCs for fish, habitat, macroinvertebrates, and water quality receive more points than a firm that meets the current RFQ minimum requirements by offering a mix of Level 2 and 3 QDCs? This question is asked even though it is not possible to meet the NPDES bioassessment requirements with only a Level 2 macroinvertebrate or water quality QDC.*

**Answer 3. Yes, a firm with Level 3 QDCs has superior qualifications to a Level 2 QDC and the rating process will respond accordingly.**

**Question 4: Do the four principal objectives of that plan stated on p. 16 remain in effect for this project?**

**Answer 4. Yes.**

**Question 5: Will an offeror be required to follow only the specifications set out in the RFQ or the broader specifications of the 2011 Bioassessment Plan referenced in the NPDES permit?**

**Answer 5. MSDGC will negotiate a contract with the selected firm to address the requirements of NPDES permit and the expectations of the 2011 Bioassessment Plan and the body of work completed under the plan.**

**Question 6: Is the 20% SBE utilization goal stated in the RFQ accurate or the 0% goal on the Current Business Opportunities website.**

**Answer 6. The goal of 20% is inaccurate; the goal for this project is 0%. However, in the scoring matrix, we keep the scoring up to 20% for various levels of SBE participation. Further explained below.**

**The overall goal for the Project is 0% and it is determined as follows: We keep a database of firms who are registered to do business with the City. The firms must register in the various commodity codes they qualify for; in this case, biologists, chemists, laboratory analysis, etc.**

**We determine our percentage goal as the total number of SBE firms divided by the total number of firms in each commodity code to arrive at our anticipated SBE percentage goal. In this case, there were no registered SBE firms in these commodity codes.**

**However, we do not know your business as well as you do. We still keep the SBE scoring at 20% based on various SBE participation levels recognized in your submittal as an incentive to firms to subcontract some of this work to a qualified SBE firm, albeit a firm that has not yet registered with the City of Cincinnati. It allows for the submitting firms to get creative and look for ways to include some SBE participation.**

**In other words, a firm that submits a full level of SBE participation in their proposal could conceivably score 20 points higher than a firm whose proposal includes no SBE participation.**

**Question 7: Is SBE utilization required as part of a successful bid?**

**Answer 7. No**

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